

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

INRE-00 NSCE-00 AID-20 IO-13 RSR-01 ACDA-19 DPW-01

OPR-02 NIC-01 /160 W

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O R 311130Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2351

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

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DIA WASHDC

CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 7822

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E.OM 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB
SUBJ: KHMER REPORT - JULY 31, 1973

GENERAL

1. ALTHOUGH UNRESOLVED POLITICAL DIFFERENCES REMAINED JUST BENEATH THE SURFACE, THE GKR THIS WEEK TOOK A FEW CONCERTED STEPS TOWARDS MOBILIZING THE NATION FOR THE MILITARY CRISIS FACING IT. IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION BEGAN WITH AN ORDER FOR THE CALL UP OF 16,000 DRAFTEES, THE CURFEW HOUR WAS ADVANCED, WORKING HOURS WERE EXTENDED AND MERRYMAKING WAS OFFICIALLY PROSCRIBED. THE ENEMY UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR SUCH MEASURES BY LAUNCHING AN AFTERNNON ROCKET AND ARTILLERY ATTACK ON THE CAPITAL, WHICH CAUSED A NUMBER OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES BUT NO SIGNIFICANT MATERIAL DAMAGE. FANK WAS UNABLE TO EXPAND PHNOM PENH'S SOUTHERN PERIMETER, WHERE ENEMY UNITS REMAINED ONLY 7 KMS FROM THE CITY'S OUTSKIRTS ALTHOUGH CLEARING ACTIONS NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL APPEARED MORE SUCCESSFUL. ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, THE ENEMY CONTINUED TO FORCE FANK UNITS FROM POSITIONS NEAR THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF PREY VENG, ON THE BASSAC SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH AND AROUND SKOUN ON ROUTE 6. THE MEKONG AND MAJOR LAND ROUTES REMAINED OPEN PERMITTING CONVOYS TO INCREASE PHNOM PENH'S VITAL RICE AND PETROLEUM

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SUPPLIES.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. IN RESPONSE TO THE INCREASINGLY SERIOUS MILITARY SITUATION THE GKR, AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE U.S., EXTENDED OFFICIAL WORKING HOURS THROUGH THE AFTERNNON, ADVANCED THE CURFEW HOUR TO 9:00 PM, AND ASKED PERSONNEL TO LIMIT

"MERRYMAKING AND RECEPTIONS." ALTHOUGH OFFICE HOURS WILL NOW BE FROM 7:30 AM UNTIL 5:30 PM, INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYEES WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SHIFTS EACH OF WHICH WILL WORK ONLY 6 1/2 HOURS PER DAY. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THESE MEASURES WAS PRECEDED BY A LONG NOL RADIO ADDRESS CALLING ATTENTION TO THE INTENSIFICATION OF ENEMY ATTACKS AROUND PHNOM PENH AND APPEALING TO THE POPULATION TO SUPPORT THE COMBAT TROOPS AND REMAIN VIGILANT AGAINST SABOTAGE ATTACKS. FANK COMMANDER IN CHIEF SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ ALSO ADDRESSED THE NATION TO URGE REDOUBLED VIGILANCE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME GIVING ASSURANCES THAT THE ENEMY OFFENSIVE WAS A FAILURE. PRIME MINISTER IN TAM FOR HIS PART HAS BEGUN TO PAY IMPROMPTU VISITS TO FRONT LINE UNITS. THE EFFECT OF THESE ACTIONS ON THE ATTITUDES OF THE MILITARY AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS NOT YET KNOWN.

3. THE MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE AND INTERIOR HAVE BEGUN TO IMPLEMENT THE DECREE ON COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE FIRST CONTINGENT OF DRAFTEES WILL NUMBER 16,000: 10,000 FROM PHNOM PENH, 5,000 FROM BATTAMBANG, AND 1,000 FROM SVAY RIENG. THE LOCAL REVIEW BOARDS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO COMPLETE THEIR LISTS OF ELIGIBLE DRAFTEES AND FORWARD THEM TO PHNOM PENH BY AUGUST 5. FOLLOWING THAT DATE THE GOVERNMENT IS TO START THE CALL UP BEGINNING WITH THOSE 35 YEARS OLD AND WORKING DOWNWARD.

4. MOVING A BIT IN ADVANCE OF THE DECREED SCHEDULE, PHNOM PENH AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO CALL UP WHATEVER MANPOWER THEY CAN LAY THEIR HANDS ON WITHIN THE 18-35 AGE BRACKET. WHEN A PUBLIC APPEAL FOR ALL THOSE SUBJECT TO THE DRAFT TO REPORT TO THEIR LOCAL BOARDS WENT LARGELY UNHEEDED, THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIE ON JULY 30 ROUNDED UP SOME

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1,200 ELIGIBLE MEN IN VARIOUS QUARTERS OF THE CAPITAL. THE USE OF FORCE WAS AT LEAST TEMPORARILY ABANDONED THE FOLLOWING DAY WHEN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS PROMISED TO PRODUCE AN APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF "VOLUNTEERS."

4. AS A RESULT OF RESISTANCE BY THE SOCIO-REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIME MINISTER IN TAM'S ASSUMPTION OF THE INTERIOR PORTFOLIO HAS APPARENTLY BEEN INDEFINITELY POSTPONED AS HAVE OTHER CHANGES. THE FORMATION OF THE REPUBLICAN POLICE ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN STALLED BY POLITICAL INFIGHTING, IN PARTICULAR BY A DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN IN TAM AND THE PRESENT INTERIOR MINISTER OVER WHO SHOULD BE NAMED TO HEAD THE UNIT. A 200,000,000 RIEL START-UP BUDGET FOR THE POLICE HAS BEEN REQUESTED BUT NOT YET APPROVED.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

6. FOREIGN MINISTER LONG BORET WILL TRAVEL TO JAKARTA ON AUGUST 1 FOR CONSULTATIONS ON TACTICS TO BE USED AT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND POSSIBLE INDONESIAN ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR A CEASEFIRE AND NEGOTIATIONS IN CAMBODIA.

GRUNK/FUNK

7. WHILE SIHANOUK RESTED IN RURAL NORTH KOREA, PENN NOUTH TOOK MOST OF THE "CABINET" OFF FOR A VACATION IN THE CHINESE PROVINCES. IN THE FIRST INSTANCE WE CAN RECALL IN WHICH HE HAS NOT STUCK CLOSE TO SIHANOUK, IENG SARY REMAINED BEHIND; AND SO DID MINISTER COORDINATING

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL UDORN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION USUN
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
CINCPAC
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CINCUSARPAC
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DIA WASHDC
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
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7TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 7822

THE NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE THIOUNN PRASITH. FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK WAS NOT MENTIONED AND MAY NOT HAVE RETURNED TO PEKING FROM HIS TRAVELS.

8. CLANDESTINE RADIO BROADCAST A JULY 21 GRUNK STATEMENT TO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE INCLUDING "PEACE-LOVING AMERICANS." THE APPEAL, FORMULATED BY 294 IN-COUNTRY DIGNITARIES IN A JULY 19-21 CONGRESS REITERATED GRUNK/FUNK'S VIEW OF CAMBODIA'S RECENT HISTORY AND GAVE THE STANDARD HARD LINE SET OF SOLUTIONS TO THE WAR. CLANDESTINE RADIO SUBSEQUENTLY TIED THE APPEAL TO SIHANOUK'S 43RD AND 44TH MESSAGES TO THE NATION AND HU NIM'S 17 JULY SUPPORT FOR THE 43RD MESSAGE IN AN EDITORIAL EMPHASIZING FUNK SOLIDARITY, UNITY AND OFFENSIVE POSTURE.

GRUNK/FUNK EXTERNAL

9. SIEN AN, GRUNK AMBASSADOR TO THE DRV, PRESENTED HIS

CREDENTIALS AS GRUNK AMBASSADOR TO THE PRG JULY 25. HE WAS RECENTLY SEEN IN QUANG TRI FOR A PRG CLEBRATION AT WHICH TIME YOU SIM HUN WAS LISTED AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN HANOI. THE MOVE IS PROBABLY SUPPORT FOR THE PRG'S EFFORT TO GAIN WORLDWIDE RECONGITION. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER SIEN AN HAS KEPT HIS ACCREDITATION TO HANOI OR BEEN "TRANSFERRED."

ECONOMIC
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10. RICE: IN AN EFFORTTO GET THE GKR-RTG RICE NEGOTIATIONS MOVING PRESIDENT LON NOL SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THE RTG PRIME MINISTER REQUESTING THAT THE 5,000 M/T OF RICE ALREADY PURCHASED BE EXPEDITED AND THAT URGENT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO MAKING 17,000 M/T OF RICE AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT TO PHNOM PENH BEFORE AUGUST 15. THE MARSHAL SUBSEQUENTLY DESIGNATED THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AS HIS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE THAIS.

11. RICE CONVOYS CONTINUE TO ARRIVE IN PHNOM PENH FROM ROUTE 5 AND THE MEKONG. ALL PHNOM PENH-EARMARKED RICE STOCKS HAVE NOW ARRIVED FROM KOMPONG SOM. THE NEXT MEKONG CONVOY IS SCHEDULED TO INCLUDE THE REMAINING BALANCE OF RICE MADE AVAILABLE TO CAMBODIA FROM VIET-NAM. AS OF JULY 30 THERE WAS APPROXIMATELY 25,027 M/T OF RICE IN STOCK IN PHNOM PENH WAREHOUSES OR 48 DAYS SUPPLY.

12. POL ARRIVED WITH THE JULY 30 CONVOY AND ADDED SIGNIFICANTLY TO EXISTING CIVILIAN AND MILITARY STOCKS.

MILITARY

13. INSURGENT PRESSURENORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH HAS TEMPORARILY SUBSIDED DUE TO SEVENTH DIVISION CLEARING OPERATIONS IN THE ROUTE 51 AREA. THE OPERATIONS ARE DESIGNED TO COUNTER ENEMY ACTIVITY WHICH POSES AN IMMEDIATE THREAT TO SEVERAL KEY GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS INCLUDING THE PREK PHNOU FUEL STORAGE FACILITY AND POCHENTONG AIRFIELD. SUPPORTED BY U.S. AIRSTRIKES, FRIENDLY FORCES REPORTEDLY CLEARED AN ENEMY BUNKER COMPLEX KILLING AN ESTIMATED 60 ENEMY SOLDIERS. ANOTHER MULTIBATTALION OPERATION LAUNCHED ON JULY 29, SOME 6 KM WEST OF THE CAPITAL, HAS MADE GOOD PROGRESS AGAINST LIGHT ENEMY RESISTANCE.

14. SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL, FANK'S DEFENSIVE LINE CONTINUED TO HOLD AGAINST MODERATE ENEMY PRESSURE. OFFENSIVE PLANS FOR THE FIRST DIVISION TO REGAIN LOST TERRITORY NORTH OF

THE PREK THNAOT RIVER HAS MADE NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS.
ENEMY PRESSURE, ALBEIT LIGHT, CONTINUES NEAR THE PREK HO
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BRIDGE ON ROUTE 2 SOUTHWEST OF TAKHMAU CITY.

15. SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH A PLANNED NORTHWARD WITHDRAWAL OF FANK FORCES FROM THEIR SOUTHERN-MOST POSITIONS ALONG THE BASSAC RIVER TO ESTABLISH A STRONGER LINE OF DEFENSE BETWEEN THE BASSAC AND MEKONG RIVERS ON JULY 27 WAS FOLLOWED BY STRONG ENEMY ATTACKS. TWO MAJOR POSITIONS WERE ABANDONED LEAVING THE ENEMY IN VIRTUAL CONTROL OF THE EAST BANK OF THE RIVER SOME 5 KM SOUTH OF TAKHMAU. LOSS OF THESE POSITIONS INCREASES THE THREAT AGAINST THE CAPITAL'S SOUTHERN DEFENSES.

16. ON JULY 25, ENEMY FORCE SHELLLED PHNOM PENH CITY FOR 30 MINUTES WITH ROCKETS, MORTARS AND 105 MM HOWITZER AND PERHAPS MORTAR FIRE FROM POSITIONS SOUTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL. CASUALTIES WERE LISTED AS 24 KILLED AND 65 WOUNDED. NO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS WERE HIT WHICH SUGGESTS PSYCHOLOGICAL RATHER THAN MILITARY OBJECTIVES.

17. IN THE ROUTE 6 AREA INTENSE INSURGENT PRESSURE AGAINST THE FANK OUTPOST AT PRAKHAM FORCED ITS DEFENDERS TO WITHDRAW ON JULY 29. A NEARBY POSITION AT SKOUN CONTINUES TO RECEIVE ATTACKS BY FIRE AND GROUND PROBES. FURTHER SOUTH ENEMY FORCES CONTINUED TO LAUNCH ATTACKS BY FIRE AND LIMITED GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST PREY VENG AND NEARBY GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. TWO COMPANY SIZED POSITIONS NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE TOWN WERE ABANDONED AS OF JULY 31 AS A RESULT OF THESE ATTACKS.

18. ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY ENEMY FORCES SLIGHTLY INCREASED PRESSURE NEAR SIEM REAP CITY CONSISTING MOSTLY OF AIRBORNE AND GROUND PROBES, WITH NO SIGNIFICANT CASUALTIES REPORTED. AT TAKEO GOVERNMENT FORCES ATTACKED AN ENEMY POSITION WEST OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL ON JULY 23, KILLING 35 ENEMY SOLDIERS AND CAPTURING 20 WEAPONS.

19. IN LOGISTIC ACTIVITIES, ROUTE 4 RECEIVED ATTACKS BY FIRE EAST OF THNAL TOTOENG ON JULY 29 BUT THE ROAD WAS IMMEDIATELY REOPENED TO CONVOY TRAFFIC. OTHER KEY LOC'S INCLUDING THE MEKONG RIVER AND ROUTE 5 ARE OPEN. A MEKONG CONVOY, COMPOSED OF 11 SHIPS PLUS TWO TUGS TOWING
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2 BARGES ARRIVED PHNOM PENH SAFELY ON JULY 30.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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